

**SECTION**  
SERVICES**SUBJECT**  
Specially Trained Attendant

**REFERENCES:** ARM: 37. 90.436

**DEFINITION**

Specially Trained Attendants are recovery oriented aides who possess the skills to assist the member with their ADL/IADLs. In addition to this, they will help the member with:

1. A therapeutic behavioral support plan if put in place by qualified professionals.
2. A program to work on needed independence skills identified in the Person Centered Recovery Plan. The Specially Trained Attendant will provide appropriate training of the identified skills.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Specially Trained Attendants who serve members on the waiver must receive a minimum of 8 hours of training in mental health and recovery. Training and certification must be approved by the Community Program Officer (CPO). The Helena College, University of Montana offers an online certification program for direct care mental health providers. This program meets the mental health training requirement for specially trained attendants.

Specially Trained Attendants who serve members with physical disabilities must receive 4 hours of disability-specific training. Specially trained attendants who serve individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury must receive an additional 4 hours of TBI-specific training. Training and certification must be approved by the CPO. It is the responsibility of the provider agency to ensure that assistants are appropriately trained under agency based services.

**QUALIFICATION FOR SERVICE**

Individuals must meet one of the following qualifications to be eligible for a Specially Trained Attendant:

1. Person with a Brain Injury whose needs cannot be met by standard personal assistance services (PAS);
2. Person with a severe physical disability whose needs cannot be met by standard PAS; and
3. Person with a severe disabling mental illness whose needs can't be met by standard PAS.

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**PAYMENT TO LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS**

Payment for this service may be made to legally responsible individuals if program criteria are met.

**RETAINER PAYMENTS**

Providers of this service may be eligible for retainer payments if authorized by the case management team. Retainer days are days on which the individual is either in the hospital, nursing facility, or on vacation. Payment for retainer days may not exceed 30 days or 720 hours per Person-Centered Recovery Plan year. Refer to SDMI HCBS 410.